

the ROADRUNNER

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

April/May 2014



Then from my heart will young petals diverge,
As rays of the sun from their focus;
I from the darkness of earth shall emerge,
A happy and beautiful Crocus!

- H.F. Gould

Photo by Jay Bailey

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District 6Gary Thayer
District 7Kurt Vosburg
District 8Mark Kovar

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The information in this newsletter is contributed
by employees, retirees and friends of NDOR.



NDOR Dist. 7 Engineer Kurt Vosburg Honored By AGC Chapter

Kurt Vosburg, Nebraska Department of Roads' District 7 Engineer, was presented the David Coolidge Memorial Award during the convention of the Nebraska Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) on February 18 in Lincoln. He was recognized for extraordinary commitment and exceptional contribution to the State Highway System and the promotion of industry cooperation and harmony. Katie Wilson, Nebraska Chapter AGC Executive Director, made the presentation.

The award is presented annually to a person either employed by or retired from NDOR. This person shall reflect the high standards represented by David Coolidge's years of service to the department. Coolidge, who passed away in

March of 1999, was District Engineer in District 7 in McCook from 1948 to 1977 and State Engineer from 1977 until his retirement in 1983.

Kurt Vosburg has been the District 7 Engineer at the Department of Roads since 2005. District 7 includes Chase, Dundy, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Kearney, Perkins, Phelps and Red Willow counties.

For 21 years, Vosburg, a licensed professional engineer, has worked at the Roads Department in a variety of capacities, including serving as District Construction Engineer prior to becoming District Engineer. Vosburg began his career at NDOR in 1983, working as a temporary Engineering Aide each summer while attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. After earning his Bachelor of Science degree, Vosburg accepted a permanent position in 1988 in the Holdrege Construction Office and after a promotion in 1991, moved to the District 7 headquarters in McCook.



Photo courtesy of Nebraska Chapter AGC

Kurt Vosburg holds the David Coolidge Memorial Award, presented to him by Katie Wilson, Nebraska Chapter AGC Executive Director, during their annual convention on February 18.

As District 7 Engineer, Vosburg has made it one of his top priorities to continue the district's long tradition of having both excellent highways and an excellent relationship with the public, local governments, contractors and other NDOR divisions and districts.

In his spare time, Vosburg and his wife, Rebecca, enjoy the area lakes, traveling and spending time with friends and their dog Rio. ♦

Signature Award Goes to Mark Leusink

Mark Leusink, General Superintendent of Cramer & Associates, Inc. of Grimes, Iowa, received the 2013 Signature Award for excellent work on Nebraska Department of Roads projects. He was honored at ceremonies during the 2014 Project Managers' Conference March 4-5 in Kearney.

Marvin Lech, District 2 Construction Engineer, presented the award to Mark, commenting, "I needed so limited direct contact with Mark due to his exceptional management skills during completion of the Fremont South Bridge project on US-77 over the Platte River."

Lech then asked Micky Jacobs, NDOR Project Manager of the Fremont South Bridge Project, to detail Mark's contributions. Jacobs highlighted many qualities that made Mark deserving of this award, including leadership, communication, problem-solving, scheduling and organizational skills, along with concern for safety and overall attitude.

"During construction, Mark coordinated the schedules of five different crews from his own company and those of 12 different subcontractors," Jacobs added, "He also worked with producers and suppliers to have materials on the project site prior to their need to avoid work delays."

Mark was very active in communicating with his crews, subcontractors, suppliers, producers and the department to prevent/solve issues. He was on the project every day to provide guidance and help solve problems as they occurred. The quality of the work performed was outstanding, especially when you consider the number of different crews that did work on the project," Jacobs said.

His nomination form noted that Mark was able to do whatever it



Photo by Jay Bailey, NDOR

Pictured, l to r: Claude Oie, NDOR Construction Engineer; Marvin Lech, District 2 Construction Engineer; Mark Leusink, recipient of the 2013 Signature Award; and Katie Wilson, Nebraska Chapter AGC Executive Director.

took to perform quality work, while still meeting the milestones indicated in the contract, and fulfilling the stringent environmental requirements. He kept the work progressing without risking delays and/or fines.

Another quality that stood out was Mark's ability to anticipate issues that might inhibit progress and to seek solutions early. An example cited was when Mark discovered an issue with the plan "bill of bars," he worked with NDOR to order the correct number of bars and have them delivered to the project before a delay occurred.

Safety and traffic flow were always at the forefront, with minor traffic issues; even when traffic was switched onto the new alignment, the maximum delay was 10 minutes.

Because of Mark's leadership and communication skills, resulting in the bridge being completed and

opened to traffic 14 days prior to the plan milestone date, Lech and Jacobs both noted that they would look forward to working with Mark on future projects.

The Signature Award is given by NDOR District Construction Engineers to individuals in the contracting industry possessing certain characteristics, including excellence in leadership, good communication, problem solving, organization, attitude, safety, and achieving above and beyond standard management practices. In addition to receiving a trophy, plaque and having their names added to a permanent plaque at the NDOR Central Headquarters, a \$500 scholarship is given in the recipient's name to a University of Nebraska student majoring in construction engineering or construction management. ♦

Paving Awards Presented in Kearney

Project Managers and Construction Technicians were honored with awards for both concrete and asphalt pavements at the annual Project Managers' Conference held March 4-6 in Kearney. The awards recognized their work on Nebraska highways during 2013.

The Nebraska Department of Roads sponsors the awards for excellence in asphaltic concrete pavement construction. Awards of excellence for highway construction projects using concrete pavement are sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Nebraska Concrete Paving Association.

Concrete Pavement Quality Awards

The award for excellence in **Interstate Highways and Expressways** was presented to Marty Weander of District 2 in Omaha for his part as Project Manager for **Platteview Inter-section at LaPlatte**. This award was presented for paving work that was done in preparation for the roadway that will connect to the new Missouri River Bridge south of Bellevue. Major paving items included 109,000 square yards of fly ash stabilized subgrade and 4-inch foundation course, 60,000 square yards of 10-inch doweled concrete pavement, 6,000 square yards of both 9-inch doweled and plain-jointed concrete pavement, and 40,000 square yards of 6-inch and 10-inch surfacing. Hawkins Construction Company of Omaha - who was the prime contractor - placed the concrete pavement. HDR Engineering, Inc. of Omaha designed the project under the oversight of Tony Kessler, NDOR Consultant Coordinator. The construction inspection team included Construction Technicians Mo Assadi, John Buscher, Mark Strong, Jeff Girton and Robert Eklund, who received

Certificates of Merit for their inspection duties at the January NCPA Concrete Paving Workshop.

Receiving the award for the **Municipal Streets** category was Project Manager Tom Farber of the District 4 Grand Island office for **2nd Ave.: 25th to 31st Streets in Kearney**. The project was built by Blessing, LLC of Kearney, Nebraska, and consisted of repaving 6 blocks in downtown Kearney, along Hwy. 10 just north of US-30. It included about 20,134 square yards of subgrade preparation, 19,408 square yards of both foundation course and 9-inch doweled concrete pavement. This project also included: imprinted surfacing and surfaced median, driveways, concrete curbs, sidewalks and temporary surfacing. The project was designed by Bill Eberspacher, Highway Designer III in NDOR's Roadway Design Division. Construction Technicians Phillip Write, Wade Harris and George McNiel were recognized with Certificates of Merit for their inspections duties on this project at the January NCPA Concrete Paving Workshop.

Pavement smoothness, quality control, innovation, complexity,

appearance, management and safety of the project were considered in the selection of the award winning concrete pavement projects.

Asphaltic Concrete Pavement Quality Awards

Five projects received awards for excellence in asphaltic concrete pavement. Nominated projects were judged by a panel who rated each project based on smoothness, quality control, complexity, innovation, general appearance, contractor management and safety.

Nenzel-Kilgore, was recognized as the **Best Project Using a Leveling Course**. Jay Gustafson of District 8 in Valentine received an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. This project was 7.7 miles long along US-20 between Nenzel and Kilgore. It consisted of a 4-inch mill and inlay using Asphaltic Concrete Type SPR (fine). This asphalt was placed using a 1-inch leveling course and two successive 1 1/2-inch lifts. The contractor, Knife River Midwest, LLC of Sioux City, Iowa, placed 24,000 tons of SPR (fine) and 8,000 tons of SPS. Certificates of Merit were presented at

(see **Paving Awards** on next page)



Marty Weander



Tom Farber



Jay Gustafson



Mike Rudnick



Kent Kuhn



Steve Trosper



Ben Merchant

Paving Awards *(cont'd. from page 4)*

the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Darrell Lurz, Brent Long and Alan Conner.

Loup County Line-Burwell was recognized as the **Best Project Utilizing Two or More Lifts**. Mike Rudnick of District 8 in Ainsworth received an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. This project extended west from Burwell 4 miles on N-91 and included a 4-inch mill and inlay. The asphalt inlay was placed in two 2-inch lifts and included 18,000 tons of Asphaltic Concrete Type SPR. Work was done by Paulsen, Inc. of Cozad, Nebraska. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Paul Schmitz, Shad Thompson, Dewey Dilsaver and Trent Plugge for their part in performing inspection activities.

Buffalo/Dawson County Line East was recognized in the **Projects with over 1,000 Patches** category, with Kent Kuhn, of District 7 in Holdrege receiving an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. The 12.5-mile project is in District 4 but was managed by District 7. It extends from 2 miles west of Elm Creek to 3 miles east of Odessa, and included the Odessa Spur L10B. It consisted of concrete repair, a 4-inch mill and inlay on US-30 and a 2-inch mill and inlay on the Odessa Link. The project consisted of 1,450 cubic yards of concrete patches and 42,000 tons of Asphaltic Concrete Type SPR was used. Also, 13,500 tons of SPS was placed on the shoulders. This project was built by Vontz Paving, Inc. of Hastings, Nebraska. Construction Technicians Donn Hazlett, Doug Macke and Wilfried Houngebe were recognized for their inspection duties at the February Asphalt Conference.

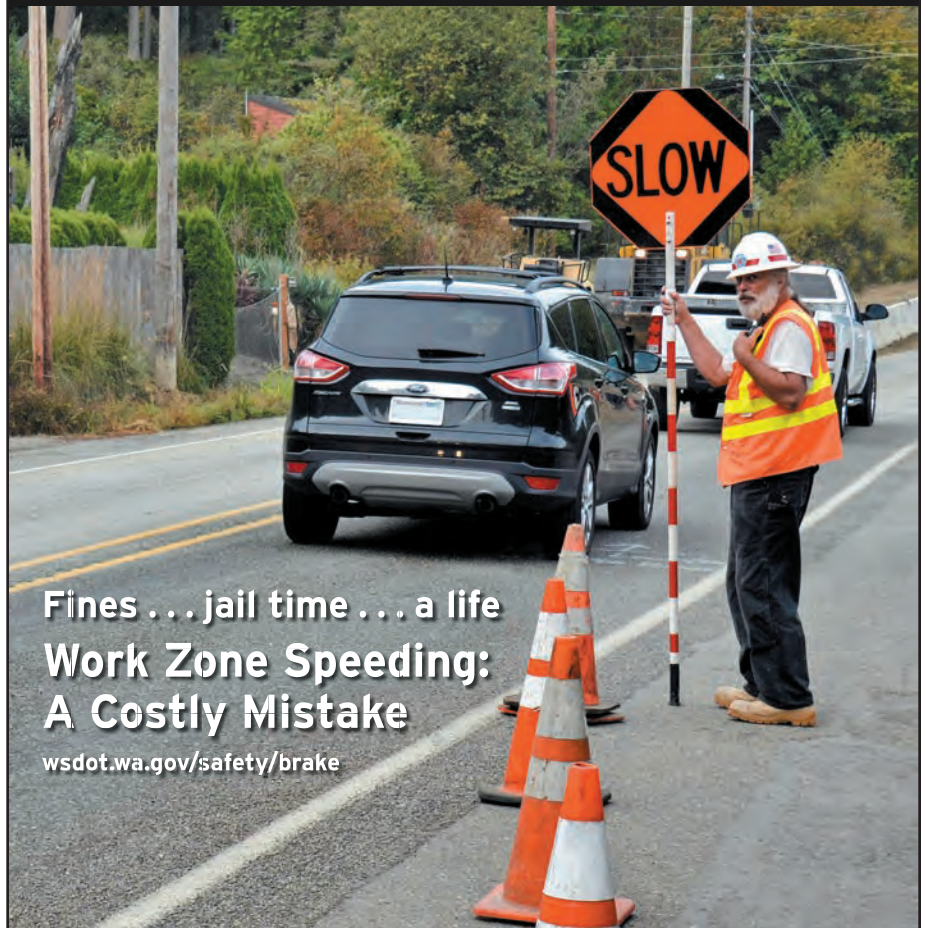
Albion West was recognized in the **Full Depth Construction, Reclamation or Fractured Slab Overlay** category, with Steve Trosper of District 3 in Columbus receiving an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. This 6-mile project extended along N-91, west of Albion. This project utilized a full depth recycling strategy where the existing pavement was pulverized to a

depth of 10 inches, blended with fly ash and compacted. The existing 24-foot surface was widened to 28-feet during the recycling by blade. The recycled layer was then overlain with 3 inches of Asphaltic Concrete Type SPR. The prime contractor, Werner Construction, Inc. of Hastings, Nebraska, placed 19,500 tons of Type SPR. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Gary R. Schmid, Jim Carney, Tom Hyland and Brant Egger for their part as inspectors on the project.

In Polk and West was recognized with the **Smoothest Pavement Award**. Ben Merchant of District 4 in Grand Island received an Award of Merit

for his role as Project Manager. The 11.5-mile project along N-66, extended from the Platte River through Hordville to the east side of Polk. Work consisted of milling 3 inches and replacing 4 inches of asphalt in two lifts, using 36,000 tons of Asphaltic Concrete Type SPR (fine). This project earned an overall smoothness incentive adjustment of 106.972% with 107% corresponding to an IRI-value of zero! Work was done by Vontz Paving, Inc. of Hastings, Nebraska. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Wade Harris, Dan Schleichardt, Curtis Probasco and Zach Thurber for their roles as inspectors.♦

NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK 2014



Missouri River Bridge Project at Rulo Wins Award

Cramer & Associates, Inc. of Grimes, Iowa, and Commercial Construction, Inc., of Lincoln, Nebraska, prime contractors for the Missouri River Bridge at Rulo project, were recipients of the 2012-2013 NDOR/AGC Bridge Award. The bridge connects southeast Nebraska and north-west Missouri via U.S. Highway 159 near Rulo, Nebraska, replacing a truss bridge about 650 feet to the north built in 1938-39.

Mike Habegger was the NDOR District 1 Project Manager. Dan Cramer, Project Superintendent, of Cramer & Associates, Inc.; and Jeremy Kyncl, Dennis Davis and Dusty Rhoades of Commercial Construction, Inc., accepted the award during ceremonies at the 2014 Project Managers' Conference March 4-5 in Kearney.

According to Habegger, who submitted the nomination form, both prime contractors did an excellent job of managing this 2,400-foot-long structure during its three-year construction life. The \$25.7 million project was successfully completed and opened to traffic on September 1, 2013, just one year later than the original completion date, despite flooding on the Missouri River during the prior three years.

Three Projects

The Nebraska Department of Roads oversaw the Missouri River Bridge at Rulo project, which was divided into three separate projects: main span project, \$16.2 million, completed by Cramer & Associates; Nebraska approach project, \$4.8 million, and Missouri approach project, \$4.7 million, both completed by Commercial Construction. The project was designed by Harrington & Cortelyou and Transystems, both from Kansas City.

During the project, 10,350 cubic yards of concrete was poured, 1.784 million pounds of steel was installed, and 13,110 linear feet of piling was driven. Approximately 9.278 million pounds of girders were constructed, at a length of two miles laid end-to-end. The project required 24,225 square yards of new concrete paving.

According to Habegger, the project had many challenges. In addition to the historic flooding of 2011 that halted all bridge work on the main span and Missouri approach



Photo by Jay Bailey, NDOR

Pictured, l to r: Claude Oie, NDOR Construction Engineer; Katie Wilson, Nebraska Chapter AGC Executive Director; along with Mike Habegger, NDOR District 1 Project Manager; Dan Cramer, Project Superintendent, of Cramer & Associates, Inc.; Jeremy Kyncl, Dusty Rhoades and Dennis Davis of Commercial Construction, Inc., recipients of the 2012-2013 NDOR/AGC Bridge Award.

projects, there was also flooding in 2010 and 2012. During construction of the bridge, the floods were ranked number 1, 3 and 9 highest ever river elevations recorded at the Rulo River gauging station.

Prior to all of the high-water events, equipment, materials and supplies had to be moved to higher ground or off of the project entirely to keep it from the flood waters. Post flooding clean-up included removing silt and debris from the construction areas, as well as repair of cofferdams, construction access roads, and anything else that had been damaged. Once this was accomplished, equipment, materials and supplies had to be moved back to the construction areas to restart the bridge construction processes.

Extra Effort

Environmental concerns and restrictions were also involved during the project and required extra effort in coordinating between NDOR, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and various other agencies and consultants. Everyone worked cohesively to ensure all requirements were met.

The challenges and complexity made coordination even more important between contractors, subcontractors, agencies and consultants involved with the project.

(see Bridge Award on next page)



Bridge Award (cont'd. from page 6)

Because one bridge was constructed as three projects, partnering meetings were held often to provide input on innovative ways to get the projects completed.

Habegger noted that project management by both contractors was great throughout the process. Communication was crucial prior to the project start and continued throughout the entire project, including the final phase, when it was necessary to coordinate the completion of all three projects so that traffic could be switched to the new bridge.

Despite the challenges over the three-year construction project, NDOR, MoDOT, the FHWA, contractors and subcontractors kept forging ahead and completed the new bridge just one year later than the original completion date.

The AGC/NDOR Bridge Construction Award recognizes quality bridge construction in Nebraska. Categories that were considered included: quality of workmanship, project management, innovation in construction or use of material, contribution to traveling public/community, environmentally sensitive, rising to the challenge – difficult job or situation, and safety. ♦

We Get Mail...

March 3, 2014

To: Randy Peters

I want to let NDOR know how much better Nebraska roads are kept in the winter than northeast Colorado. Last Monday while driving to Lincoln from Denver, most of I-76 was snowpacked and slow traveling, while Nebraska roads from the border on to Lincoln were so clean there wasn't even any moisture on the roadway. There was also more snow in Nebraska than in Colorado. We don't appreciate how good a job NDOR does until a time like that. I want to thank all of NDOR's staff for the great job.

From: Connie Pierce

The Department of Roads receives numerous complimentary letters. The letters printed here are representative of those often sent praising the many fine and deserving employees of the Department of Roads.

Doug Lollman Named Project Manager of the Year

Doug Lollman, of Norfolk, was honored by the Nebraska Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) as Nebraska Department of Roads' (NDOR) Project Manager of the Year. Lollman received a traveling trophy and plaque at the Project Managers' Conference at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney on March 4.

Born in Iowa, Lollman graduated from Wayne State College with a degree in Construction Management in 1984. After working several years for Clausen Brothers Construction, he started working at NDOR in 1990 and became a Project Manager in 2005.

The award is presented annually by the AGC to an NDOR project manager who has upheld the standards of conducting business within the highway construction industry with the highest level of ethics and integrity. The trophy is called the Lyle Leader Memorial Award in tribute to Mr. Leader, who was a project manager at NDOR for 34 years. He was active in the District 3 Hartington office at the time of his death in August 1991 and was highly respected by his peers within the department and by the contractor members of AGC.

All contractor members submitted a nomination for this award and the nominees were voted upon by the members of the AGC. For the year 2013, Lollman received the high honor. ♦



Photo by Jay Bailey

Pictured, l to r: Tyler Chicoine, President, Nebraska Chapter AGC; Doug Lollman, 2013 Project Manager of the Year; Katie Wilson, Nebraska Chapter AGC Executive Director; and Claude Oie, NDOR Construction Engineer.

NDOR and FTA Partner with Webster Co. for Innovative Bus Facility

By Kari Ruse
Rail & Public Transportation

On March 13, staff from the NDOR Rail & Public Transportation Division traveled to Red Cloud to attend a bus barn grand opening hosted by Webster County Public Transportation. The new 1,824-square-foot facility will provide storage for four public transportation vehicles. The building incorporates sustainable design practices including solar panels that will power the building's lights and doors.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provided most of the funding for the \$340,000 project. Of the total from the FTA, \$280,000 was provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Eighty percent of the remaining \$60,000 was provided through DOT Section 5311 funds with 20 percent in local matching funds from Webster County.

Mary Delka, Manager of Webster County Public Transportation, noted, "I am very appreciative of the new bus barn in Red Cloud. It is a definite asset to Webster County Public Transit. When I spoke to Mildred Crable, full-time driver for Webster

County Public Transit for sixteen years, she told me it's great to be able to park our transit vehicles indoors, secure from the weather elements and other damage that can occur from vehicles being parked outside."

Webster County Public Transportation provides vital services for residents of Webster and Franklin counties. In fiscal year 2013, they provided nearly 6,000 trips through scheduled, curb-to-curb service for residents in Red Cloud and the surrounding rural communities. Passengers are typically transported to Kearney, Hastings and Grand Island for medical appointments, shopping, and social activities.

The NDOR and their consultant partners at URS Corporation launched a mobility management pilot project in Webster and Franklin counties in December 2013. Mobility management is defined as a strategic approach to service coordination among transportation providers to create a full range of transit services within a community. Through the ongoing pilot project, the rural transportation providers based in Franklin, Red Cloud

and Guide Rock are combining passenger trips to long distance locations. The objective of the pilot project is to measure increased efficiency by coordinating services. Data from the project will also be analyzed to determine the feasibility of expanding the mobility management concept across the state. ♦

Service Awards

Congratulations to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. They celebrate their service dates in *April and May 2014*.

40 Years

Thomas Anderson, District 4
Randal Keith, District 6
Gregory Kreifel, District 1
Dale Lange, District 3
Charles Miller, District 5

30 Years

Cynthia Deckard, Materials & Research
Ronald Dewispelare, Operations
Janice Hueske, Bridge
Mostafa Jamshidi, Director's Office
Wesley Nelson, Operations
Timothy Otto, Roadway Design
Craig Poole, District 4
Andrew Stander Jr., District 1

20 Years

James Hansen, District 8
Curtis Mueting, District 1
Judy Schoenfeldt, District 3

10 Years

Matthew Baker, Operations
Neil Breece, District 6
Chad Garcia, District 6
Michael Hanau, Operations
Lisa Houston, District 5
Kevin Krolkowski, Roadway Design
Kenton Miller, Bridge
Gloria Ryken, Operations
Jason Volz, Construction
Philip Webb, Materials & Research
Lex Zimmerman, District 6



Photo by Frank Faughn

The new Webster County bus storage facility in Red Cloud incorporates solar panels to power the building's lights and doors.

Ernie Voss Reflects on 60 Years at NDOR

Since 2009, Ernie Voss has been at the top of NDOR's "Top Twenty" List – the list that documents employees in the department with the most years of service. His record-setting 60 years of service at Roads is not likely to be surpassed anytime soon.

Voss began permanent employment on March 22, 1954, at what was then called the "Department of Roads and Irrigation" at the age of 19, after completing two years of studies in Electrical Engineering at UNL. Although he had been temporarily employed at the department during the summer months of 1952 and 1953 as a rod man on a survey crew, Voss's first permanent employment came the following year, when he was hired as an Engineering Aide II and paid \$280 a month.

Voss worked in the Testing Laboratory of what was then called the Materials & Tests Division in the Materials & Tests Building. This was the first building of the present three-building complex. The Materials & Tests Building was completed in 1948; the State Patrol/Engineering Building (now referred to as the Right-of-Way Building) was completed in 1958 and housed the Construction Division; Right-of-Way and Utilities sections; Division 1 and 2 headquarters staff and State Patrol. By December 1967, the last of the NDOR employees at the State Capitol had moved to the new Central Headquarters Building, which was dedicated on September 27, 1968.

Memorable Years

During the years 1955 to 1971, Voss was gradually promoted to Engineering Aide II, III, IV, V and Engineering Associate I while still working in the

Testing Laboratory. The majority of his time there, about 10 years, was spent in the Bituminous Section, where he ran tests on asphalt, asphaltic oils, motor oils and diesel fuels. Most memorable were the four years in the Physical Tests Section, as a great number of items were tested to destruction. Reinforcing bars were pulled apart and concrete and steel culvert pipes were completely crushed. During the last three years of his



Photo by Jay Bailey

Ernie Voss accepts his 60-Year Service Award from NDOR Director Randy Peters.

tenure with the Testing Laboratory, Voss's duties included traveling the state with a helper and drilling progress record cores out of asphalt concrete roadways for testing in the laboratory. He also recalled serving as a flagman in the hot summer months for a traffic paint test stripe crew. He did this for four weeks out of each year for a period of six years, noting it was his least favorite job.

In 1972, Voss transferred to the Contracts & Lettings Section, with a promotion to Highway Contract Technician, where he checked roadway design plans for correct pay items; assembled project information proposals; prequalified bidders; issued bidding proposals; issued addenda and would read bids aloud on letting day.

Lighting Projects

In 1977, Voss transferred to the Lighting Unit in Roadway Design Division with a promotion to Engineering Associate III, and has worked there for the past 37 years. At his present position as Lighting Unit Supervisor, he is responsible for providing correctly designed lighting projects for roadways within the state highway system. He was responsible for the majority of I-80 lighting projects in the Omaha area since the start of the I-80 rehabilitation in 1989.

Voss compared those early years working at NDOR in the 1950s with today, noting the many changes that have occurred, including the introduction of the computer. Over the years, he has witnessed the transition from paper to the use of computer software in accomplishing tasks associated with planning and designing roads, including lighting projects.

Other than changes in technology, Voss said another major change he has noticed within NDOR during the past 60 years involved the improvement in employee working conditions.

Tight Ship

"Working conditions were much stricter back then. When I began working in the Testing Lab in 1954, the Materials & Tests Engineer had been a ship's captain during World War II and he applied his military code and conduct to his civilian job. He took pride in running a 'tight ship.' We had a 44-hour work week with no flex-time options, precise 15-minute breaks and advising your supervisor when you left your work station, with a bell announcing starting time no later than 8:00 a.m. and quitting time no earlier than 5:00 p.m."

Voss and his co-workers often experienced extremes in temperatures in the building that housed the Testing Lab and Materials & Tests Division, since the air conditioning and heating sources were unreliable. The building was supplied with heat from the State Prison power plant, which quite often had trouble keeping both facilities warm. According to Voss, the halls of

(see **Reflections** on next page)

Reflections (cont'd. from page 9)

the building were dimly lit, particularly during the winter months, and resembled corridors of the prison from which the building received its warmth.

Citing examples from more frugal times, Voss described a couple of extreme measures taken by section heads of the Materials & Tests Division. One required employees to turn in a pencil stub 1½ inches or less in length in order to obtain a new wood pencil from the supply room. Also, the secretarial staff was made to wash, sort and rebox paper clips.

Happy Employee

Voss said he was happy that he chose to work for the Department of Roads & Irrigation, which is what it was called until 1957, when it was divided into three separate state agencies: Department of Roads, Department of Motor Vehicles and Department of Water Resources. He has enjoyed the opportunity to use his electrical knowledge on the job and to have steady employment even when the economy was suffering and many of his friends were being laid off.

Voss offered this advice for new employees: "There will be times when you will be given a job or jobs that you dislike. Bite the bullet and give the job your best. You and your life will be better for it."

In his spare time, Voss enjoys guns and hunting, as well as owning and working on older "classic" cars. He owns a 1931 Ford Model A and a 1937 Ford sedan. ♦

Our Top Twenty

NDOR employees with the most *total state service*
as of April 7, 2014.

Name	Office	Service Date
1. Ernest W. Voss	Roadway Design	3/22/1954
2. Douglas J. Prochazka	Construction	7/11/1960
3. Robert R. Foreman	Construction	10/1/1960
4. Dennis R. Baehr	District 2	5/14/1962
5. Robert H. Fischer	Right-of-Way	5/20/1963
6. Marvin R. Lech	District 2	6/15/1964
7. Thomas E. Wing	Roadway Design	9/21/1964
8. Robert L. Schmit	District 1	10/26/1964
9. Roger N. McKay	District 1	4/26/1965
10. Thomas W. Rohn	Roadway Design	9/1/1965
11. Larry E. Schultz	District 1	5/31/1966
12. Gareld D. Adams	Planning & Proj. Dev.	7/1/1966
13. Kathleen A. Largent	BTSD	11/7/1966
14. Allen A. Vandegrift	District 1	3/2/1968
15. Randy W. Havranek	District 8	5/31/1968
16. Lyle A. Kohmetscher	District 4	6/10/1968
17. Jay A. Bailey	Communication	10/1/1968
18. Jay H. Gustafson	District 8	11/12/1968
19. Stanley J. Karel	Materials & Research	11/18/1968
20. Sharron K. Magnuson	Construction	4/21/1969

10 Tips for Driving in Work Zones

Driving safely in work zones, motorists can help to make sure everyone gets home safely.

- **Expect the Unexpected.** Things may change overnight. Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be closed, narrowed, or shifted, and people may be working on or near the road.
- **Obey Road Crew Flaggers and Pay Attention to the Signs.** The flagger knows what is best for moving traffic safely in the work zone. The warning signs are there to help you and other drivers move safely through the work zone.
- **Know Before You Go.** Check radio, TV and websites for traffic information and schedule enough time to drive safely. Expect delays and leave early so you can reach your destination on time.
- **Don't Speed.** Obey the posted speed limit at all times, even when workers are not present.
- **Stay Alert and Minimize Distractions.** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones and other electronic devices while approaching and driving in a work zone.
- **Be Patient and Stay Calm.** Work zones aren't there to personally inconvenience you. Remember, the work zone crew members are working to improve the road and make your future drive better.
- **Don't Tailgate.** Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you and the construction workers and their equipment. Rear-end collisions account for 30% of work zone crashes.
- **Keep Up With the Traffic Flow.** Do not slow down to "gawk" at road work.
- **Wear Your Seatbelt.** It is your best defense in a crash.
- **Remember - Dads, moms, sons, daughters, brothers and sisters work here!**

All in the Family

Information for "All in the Family" should be sent to the Communication Division. Appropriate information will be included in future Roadrunners.

Please note: Birth announcements will be published as long as written permission is received by the Communication Division. This is necessary, as NDOR is required to adhere to privacy laws under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Births

Congratulations to Padmja Padrathi on the birth of his son, Vijay Satyacharan Turangi, born December 22, 2013. Padmja is an IT Application Developer/Sr. in Business Technology Support.

Congratulations to Pat Cruz on the birth of her grandson, Theodore Royal, born February 7. Pat is the Help Desk Supervisor in Business Technology Support.

Congratulations to Ryan and Jessica Czarnik on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Ann, born February 17. Ryan and grandfather, Tony Babb, are both Hwy. Maintenance Workers Sr., at District 4 in Fullerton.

Congratulations to Mikki Vlach on the birth of her grandson, Joseph Anthony, born March 21. Mikki is a Staff Assistant at District 4 in Grand Island.

Condolences

Condolences to Ron Vajgrt and family on the death of his mother. Ron is a Hwy. Materials & Tests Technician III in Materials & Research.

Condolences to Richard Houck on the death of his wife. Richard is a Hwy. Local Projects Coordinator in the Local Projects Section of Materials & Research.

Condolences to Gil and LuAnne Goldsmith on the death of his mother. LuAnne is a Hwy. Cartographer Sr. in Materials & Research.

Condolences to Will Mathieu and his family on the passing of his sister. Will is a Hwy. Right-of-Way Agent II.

Condolences to Randy Keith and family on the death of Randy's brother. Randy is the Hwy. Maintenance Supervisor at District 6 in Lexington.

District 6 sends condolences to family and friends on the death of LaMar "Lem" Nesiba. Lem retired September 12, 1997 as a Hwy. Construction Technician IV.

Condolences to Sally Larsen on the loss of her husband. Sally is a Staff Assistant I at District 8 in Valentine.

Condolences to Dennis Connot on the loss of his sister. Dennis is the Hwy. Maintenance Superintendent at District 8 in Valentine.

Condolences to Shad Thompson on the loss of his father. Shad is a Construction Tech III at District 8 in O'Neill.

Weddings

Congratulations on the April 26th marriage of Jeff Stephens and Mollie Comfort. Jeff is the son of Andrea and Jeff Clark. Andrea is an IT Business Systems Analyst in Materials & Research.

This 'n That

Congratulations to Len Sand on his retirement after 44 years of service. Len was Hwy. Environmental Program Manager in Planning & Project Development.

Congratulations to Kay Benson on her retirement after 42 years of service. Kay was Hwy. Procurement Manager in Operations.

Congratulations to Rodger Florom on his retirement after 50 years of service. Roger was an IT Infrastructure Support Analyst Sr. in Business Technology Support.

Congratulations to John Shimonek on his retirement after 5 years of service. John was a Project Manager in Business Technology Support.

Congratulations to Barb Biffle on her retirement after 16 years of service at NDOR, 24 years total state service. Barb was a Web & Social Media Officer in Communication.

Congratulations to Jack Rosecrans, who received a special plaque in honor of his devoted service to Bryan Medical Center as President of Volunteers and Customer Care Board of Directors from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. Jack is a Public Information Officer in Communication.

Congratulations to Linda Wilson on attaining the Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) designation, the highest level of achievement in Toastmasters. The award is given for outstanding leadership and communication skills. Linda has been a member of RoadToasters for the past nine years and is the first person in the club's 45-year history to earn this award. Linda is a Public Information Officer in Communication.

RoadToasters celebrated their 45th anniversary at a special open house meeting on April 9th, attended by past and present members and honored guests. NDOR Director Randy Peters gave opening remarks, congratulating club members on this achievement. The communication and public speaking training club is sponsored by NDOR and affiliated with Toastmasters International. Meetings are the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., in the Highway Commission Room at Central Headquarters.

Congratulations to Landon Krolkowski, who was among the Cathedral Pack 54 Cub Scouts recognized in a Mass held in their honor and celebrated by Bishop Conley. He was one of six Scouts who earned the "Light of Christ" Religious Emblem. Landon is the son of Kevin Krolkowski, Engineer IV in Roadway Design.

Congratulations to Dillon Byre, who recently completed a 5-1 season playing as a center for the Lincoln Pound Middle School Basketball "C" Team. Dillon is the son of Dale Byre, Jr., Quality Assurance Manager in Materials & Research.

Winner of "Select Dog" in the Boykin Spaniel breed group at the Westminster AKC Dog show was Judy Foreman's brother and sister-in-law's

(see **All in the Family** on next page)

Correspondents Keep Pulse on News

Twenty-six individuals perform the role of tracking newsworthy activities of NDOR employees. They gather news for the *Roadrunner's All in the Family* section, including births, deaths, weddings, and graduations along with other newsworthy items. Please support your correspondents in their efforts to provide timely, accurate information.

Bridge.....	Lori Larson
Business Tech Support.....	Trish Sanchez
Communication.....	Linda Wilson
Construction.....	Agnes Masek
Controller.....	Brenda Hain
Director's Office.....	Verneda Kelly
Human Resources.....	Diane Holthus
Legal.....	Twila Avey
Materials & Research.....	Barb Traudt
Operations.....	Liz Salisbury
Planning & Project Development.....	Sandra Knippelmeyer
	Linda Langdale

Program Management.....	Kendall Tonjes
Rail & Pubic Transportation.....	Charlie Bowlby
Right-of-Way.....	Jacki Schrotberger
Roadway Design.....	Sandra Schuelke
Traffic Engineering.....	Bobbi Olson
Hwy. Safety Sec.....	Julie Slechta
District 1.....	Linda Piening
District 2.....	Connie Diblasi
District 3.....	Judy Schoenfeldt
District 4.....	Lauren Swiatoviak
District 5.....	Cindy Vergil
District 6.....	Karen Swedberg
District 7.....	Jan Collins
District 8.....	Erin Allen

NDOR Events Calendar

— April —

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

- 1-30 Great Nebraska Trash-Off**
www.transportation.nebraska.gov/operations/maintenance/adopt.htm
- 4 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
 Meeting 8:45 a.m. Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Examination 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. NDOR Auditorium
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 7-11 National Work Zone Awareness Week**
www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz_awareness.htm
- 9 RoadToasters 45th Anniversary Celebration**
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
 Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 15 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**
 NDOR Central Headquarters
 Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580
- 17 Letting**
 1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
 Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 18 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.**
 9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 22 Earth Day**
www.earthday.org
- 23 RoadToasters**
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 25 State Holiday – Arbor Day**
- 4/29 - 5/1 Operations & Maintenance Conference**
 Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, Kearney

— May —

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

National Bike-to-Work Month

- 2 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
 10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 6 New Employee Orientation Program**
 NDOR Auditorium
 Contact Denise Sears @ 402-479-3656
- 11-17 National Transportation Week**
www.ndtahq.com/events_national_trans_week.htm
- 13-27 Open Enrollment**
 Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580

- 14 RoadToasters**
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 14 New Employee Orientation Program**
 Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
 Contact Denise Sears @ 402-479-3656
- 16 Hwy. Commission Meeting**
 8:30 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact Greg Weinert @ 402-479-4871
- 16 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
 9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 5/19 -6/1 National "Click It or Ticket" Mobilization**
- 22 Letting**
 1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
 Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 26 State Holiday – Memorial Day**
- 28 RoadToasters**
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 5/30 – 6/8 Nebraska Wildflower Week**
<http://arboretum.unl.edu/wildflower-week>

— June —

National Safety Month

www.nsc.org/Pages/JuneisNationalSafetyMonth.aspx

- 7 National Trails Day**
www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day
- 10 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**
 NDOR Central Headquarters
 Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580
- 11 RoadToasters**
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 20 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
 9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 25 RoadToasters**
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 26 Letting**
 1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
 Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 27 Hwy. Commission Mtg./Dist. 5 Program Hearing**
 8:30 a.m., Sidney Holiday Inn
 664 Chase Blvd., Sidney, NE
 Contact Sarah Kugler @ 402-479-4871

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail linda.wilson@nebraska.gov. Information for the June/July Roadrunner should be received by May 30, 2014.

All in the Family (cont'd. from page 11)

dog Pocotaligo's Nama Karoo. He also won "Best in Breed" at the Eukanuba AKC Dog show. Judy Foreman is a Location Analyst in Traffic Engineering-Hwy Safety-Accident Records.

Zachary Foreman graduated from Army Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in February. He has been attending training at Ft. Lee, in Virginia and will return home to serve in a local Army National Guard unit. Zachary is the son of Judy and Milt Foreman. Judy is a Location Analyst in Traffic Engineering-Hwy Safety-Accident Records.

Dylan Woodgate has been selected to represent American Legion Post 119 at Boys State this summer. Kyle Woodgate graduated in March with an Associate's Degree in Fire Protection Technology from Southeast Community College. Dylan and Kyle are the sons of Jerry and Michelle Woodgate. Jerry is a Project Manager at District 4 in St. Paul.

Congratulations to Larry Rau on his retirement after 44 years of service. Larry was Hwy. Project Manager at District 8 in Ainsworth.

